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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 10 February 2000 (10.02.00)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/01766	Applicant's or agent's file reference 5271399
International filing date (day/month/year) 03 June 1999 (03.06.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 03 June 1998 (03.06.98)
Applicant KAPLAN, Robert	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

   [X] in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

   _____ 30 December 1999 (30.12.99) _____

   [ ] in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

   _____

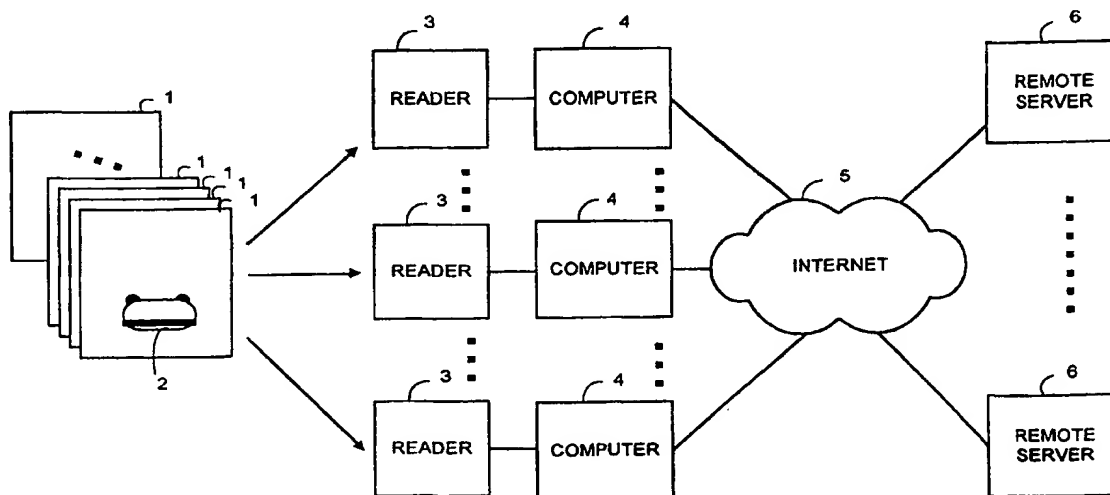2. The election [X] was

   [ ] was not

   made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer Olivia RANAIVOJAONA
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_INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACCESSING WEB SITES VIA THE INTERNET

(57) Abstract

A number of advertising leaflets (1) each having attached thereto a swipe card having address data recorded thereon are provided together with a number of user stations each comprising a card reader (3) and a computer (4) all having facilities for connecting to the Internet (5), and a number of remote servers (6) also connected to the Internet (5) having stored therein web sites. A swipe card (2) having address data in a machine readable form is passed through a card reader (3). The address data is then stored in a memory in the card reader (3) and then transferred to a computer (4). The computer (4) then interprets the data read by the card reader (3) and generates a command to form a communications link to a remote server (6).

CLAIMS

1.   An information transfer system, comprising:

     a plurality of Internet addressing apparatus, said
5   apparatus each comprising:

          a computer having a web browser stored therein; and

          a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

          a plurality of servers having stored therein web
     sites, said web sites all having addresses; and

10   a plurality of documents which are separate from said
     computers, said readers and said servers, said documents
     having associated therewith or attached thereto a data
     carrier which has recorded thereon address data in a form
     readable by said reader, said address data defining the
15   address of a predetermined web site;

          wherein each of said addressing apparatus, further
     comprises:

          means for causing said reader to read said address
     data for a web site from a said data carrier and to
20   transfer said address data to said web browser; and

          means for causing said web browser to address said
     web site utilising the address data transferred thereto
     from said reader and to receive information transferred
     to said computer from said web site in response to said
25   addressing of said web site.

2.   An information transfer system comprising:

a plurality of Internet addressing apparatus, said apparatus each comprising:

a computer having a web browser stored therein; and

a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

5   a plurality of servers having stored therein web sites, said web sites all having addresses; and

a plurality of documents which are separate from said computers and said readers, a portion of said document comprising a data carrier which has recorded

10   thereon address data in a form readable by said reader, said address data defining the address of a predetermined web site;

wherein each of said addressing apparatus further comprises:

15   means for causing a said reader to read said address data for a web site from a said data carrier and to transfer said address data to said web browser; and

means for causing said web browser to address said web site utilising the address data transferred thereto

20   from said reader and to receive information transferred to said computer from said web site in response to said addressing of said web site.

3.   An information transfer system according to claim 1

25   or 2, in which said readers are adapted to read data in magnetic form and said address data is recorded on said data carriers in magnetic form.

4.   An information addressing system according to claim 2, in which said readers are adapted to read bar codes and said address data is recorded on said data carriers in the form of bar codes.

5

5.   Apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein said documents comprise a paper or plastic substrate.

6.   Internet addressing apparatus for obtaining information from a predetermined web site via the Internet, comprising:

        a computer having a web browser stored therein;

        a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

a document which is separate from said computer and said reader, said document having associated therewith or attached thereto a data carrier which has recorded thereon address data in a form readable by said reader, said address data defining the address of said predetermined web site;

        means for causing said reader to read said address data from said data carrier and to transfer said address data to said web browser; and

        means for causing said web browser to address said web site utilising the address data transferred thereto from said reader and to receive information transferred to said computer from said web site in response to said addressing of said web site.

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7.   Internet   addressing   apparatus   for   obtaining

information   from   a   predetermined   web   site   via   the

internet,   comprising:

a computer having a web browser stored therein;

5   a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

a document which is separate from said computer and said

reader, a portion of said document comprising a data

carrier which has recorded thereon address data in a form

readable by said reader, said address data defining the

10   address of said predetermined web site;

means for causing said reader to read said address

data from said data carrier and to transfer said address

data to said web browser; and

means for causing said web browser to address said

15   web site utilising the address data transferred thereto

from said reader and to receive information transferred

to said computer from said web site in response to said

addressing of said web site.

20   8.   Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7, in which said

reader is adapted to read data in magnetic form and said

address data is recorded on said data carrier in magnetic

form.

25   9. Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7, in which said

reader is adapted to read bar codes and said address data

is recorded on said data carrier in the form of a bar

code.

10. Apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 9, wherein said document comprises a paper or plastic substrate.

11. An information carrier having recorded thereon means for generating within a computer said means for causing a web browser in a computer to address a web site utilising address data transferred thereto from a reader in accordance with any of claims 6 to 10.

12. An information carrier in accordance with claim 11 having recorded thereon means for generating within a computer means for determining whether said address data transferred thereto from a reader relates to a direct communications link, said means being arranged to cause said browser to transfer information via said direct communications link, if said means determines said data relates to a said direct communications link.

13. An information carrier in accordance with claims 11 or 12 having recorded thereon means for causing a browser in a computer to transmit to a web site further data transferred thereto from a reader.

14. An information carrier in accordance with any of claims 11 to 13 comprising a computer disc.

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15. A computer disc in accordance with claim 14, wherein said computer disc comprises an optical, magnetic optical or magnetic disc.

5 16. An information carrier in accordance with any of claims 11 to 13 comprising an electrical signal transferred via the Internet.

17. A process for obtaining information from a
10 predetermined web site via the Internet, comprising:

providing a computer;

providing a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

providing a document which is separate from said
15 computer and said reader, said document having associated therewith or attached thereto a data carrier which has recorded thereon address data in a form readable by said reader, said address data defining the address of said predetermined web site;

20 presenting said data carrier to said reader and causing said reader to read said address data from said data carrier;

transferring said address data to said computer;

causing said computer to address said web site
25 utilising the address data transferred thereto from said reader; and

transferring information from said web site to said

computer via the Internet, in response to said addressing

of said web site.

18.   A process according to claim 17 further comprising

prior to presenting said data carrier to said reader the

step of separating said data carrier from said document.

19.   A   process   for   obtaining   information   from   a

predetermined web site via the Internet, comprising:

        providing a computer;

        providing a reader for reading data from a data

carrier;

        providing a document which is separate from said

computer and said reader, a portion of said document,

comprising a data carrier which has recorded thereon

address data in a form readable by said reader, said

address data defining the address of said predetermined

web site;

        presenting said portion of said document comprising

said data carrier to said reader and causing said reader

to read said address data from said data carrier;

        transferring said address data to said computer;

        causing said computer to address said web site

utilising the address data transferred thereto from said

reader; and

        transferring information from said web site to said

computer via the Internet, in response to said addressing

of said web site.

20.   A process according to any of claims 17 to 19, in
which said reader is adapted to read data in magnetic

5   form and said address data is recorded on said data
carrier in magnetic form.

21.   A process according to any of claims 17 to 19, in
which said reader is adapted to read bar codes and said

10   address data is recorded on said data carrier in the form
of a bar code.

22.   A process according to any of claims 17 to 21,
wherein said data carrier comprises a paper or plastic

15   substrate.

23.   A process according to any of claims 17 to 22,
wherein said causing step comprises the steps of:
          activating a browser program provided in said

20   computer; and
          inputting said address data transferred to said
computer into said browser program to cause said computer
to address said web site.

25   24.   A process according to any of claims 17 to 23
further comprising the step of determining whether said
address data transferred to said computer relates to a

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direct communications link to a web site, wherein if said data relates to a direct communications link, said transfer of information from said web site is performed via said direct communications link.

25. A process according to any of claims 17 to 24, wherein said document has recorded thereon further data in a form readable by said reader, further comprising the steps of reading said further data from said document; transferring said data to said computer; and transmitting said data to said web site.

26. A process according to claim 25 wherein said web site is arranged to transmit further information following the receipt of said further data.

27. A process according to claim 25 or 26 wherein said web site is arranged to store account data, wherein said web site is arranged to update said account data utilising receipt of said further data.

28. A data carrier having recorded thereon address data in a form readable by a said reader for use in a process in accordance with any of claims 17 to 26.

29. A book, magazine or other periodical having attached or associated therewith a data carrier in accordance with

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claim 12.

30.   A reader for connection to a computer, for reading data from a data carrier in accordance with claim 28,
5   said reader comprising:

means for causing a web browser in a computer to address a web site utilising address data read from a document separate from said computer and said reader.

10   31.   A reader in accordance with claim 30, said reader further comprising:

means for determining whether address data relates to a direct communications link, said means being arranged to cause a browser in a computer to transfer
15   information via said direct communications link, if said means determines said data relates to a direct communications link.

32.   A reader in accordance with claim 30 or 31, said
20   reader further comprising:

means for causing a browser in a computer to transfer further data read by said reader from a data carrier separate from said computer and said reader to a web site.

25

33.   Apparatus for use in a process for obtaining information from a predetermined web site via the

Internet in accordance with any of claims 17 to 27, comprising:

a computer having a web browser stored therein;

a reader for reading data from a data carrier;

means for causing said reader to read said address data from a data carrier and to transfer said address data to said web browser; and

means for causing said web browser to address said web site utilising the address data transferred thereto from said reader and to receive information transferred to said computer from said web site in response to said addressing of said web site.

34. Apparatus according to claim 33, in which said reader is adapted to read data in magnetic form.

35. Apparatus according to claim 34, in which said reader is adapted to read bar codes.

36. Apparatus for facilitating the retrieval of information from predetermined web sites, comprising:

a distributable document in hard copy form; and

a data carrier assembled with said distributable document, said data carrier being removable from said document and having recorded thereon in machine readable form address data for addressing a predetermined web site.

37.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 36, wherein said distributable document comprises any one of a magazine, newspaper, advertising leaflet or periodical.

5   38.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 36, wherein said distributable document comprises a paper, card or plastic substrate.

39.   Apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 36

10   to 38, wherein said data carrier comprises a paper, card or plastic substrate.

40.   Apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 36 to 39, wherein said data carrier has said address data

15   recorded thereon in magnetic form.

41.   Apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 36 to 39, wherein said data carrier has said address data recorded thereon in the form of a barcode.

20

42.   Apparatus in accordance with any one of claims 36 to 41, wherein said data carrier is detachably attached to said distributable document.

25   43.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 42, wherein said data carrier is detachably attached to said distributable document by means of glue.

35

44.   Apparatus in accordance with any of claims 36 to 41, wherein said data carrier comprises a portion of said distributable document, detachably removable from the remainder of said distributable document.

5

45.   Apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said portion of said distributable document comprises a portion of said distributable document, at least part of the perimeter of which is defined by a series of

10   perforations.

46.   A process for transferring data from a first computer terminal to a second computer terminal via a communications network comprising the steps of:

15   machine reading data from a hard copy document by said first computer terminal,

forming a communications link to said second computer terminal via said communications network on the basis of said data and transferring data from said second

20   computer terminal to said first computer terminal via said communications link.

47.   Information transfer apparatus comprising:

a first computer terminal including machine reading

25   means for reading data from a hard copy document;

a second computer terminal having stored therein information to be transferred to said first computer

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terminal; and

means for establishing a communications link between said first computer terminal and said second computer terminal on the basis of data read by said reading means from a hard copy document.

48. A process for obtaining information from a predetermined web site via the internet, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

49. Apparatus for obtaining information from a predetermined web site via the internet, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5271399	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)

International application No. PCT/GB99/01766	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 03/06/1999	Priority date *(day/month/year)* 03/06/1998

International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC
G06F17/30

Applicant

KAPLAN, Robert

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 7 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

    I   ☒ Basis of the report

    II   ☐ Priority

    III   ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

    IV   ☐ Lack of unity of invention

    V   ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations suporting such statement

    VI   ☐ Certain documents cited

    VII   ☒ Certain defects in the international application

    VIII   ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 30/12/1999	Date of completion of this report 07.07.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer König, W Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2297

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 1994)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB99/01766

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-22	as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-18	as received on	15/06/2000	with letter of	13/06/2000

Drawings, sheets:

1/12-12/12	as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description,   pages:

☒ the claims,   Nos.:   19-49

☐ the drawings,   sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-18
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

   see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

   see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

   see separate sheet

Appendix to Section V

1.)   Reference is made to the following documents:

D1= WO 98 20411 A (NEOMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES INC) 14 May 1998
D2= US 5 281 799 A (MCINTIRE HARLEY J ET AL) 25 January 1994
D3= WO 98 06055 A (RAPAPORT JEFFREY ALAN ;RAPAPORT SEYMOUR
   ALVIN (US)) 12 February 1998

2.)   D1 relates to a system and method for automatically accessing Web pages in the Internet using machine readable code: A bar code containing a URL is scanned via a code scanning equipment connected to a computer and the obtained URL is then used by an Internet browser installed on the computer to access the specified files through the Internet (see the abstract of D1; fig.1). The system of D1 solves the problem how to simplify the access of a Web page.

3.)   Information cards as such are known in the art as shown for example in D2 (see the abstract, figs. 1, 3B, 4B)

4.)   D3 also discloses a system and method similar to the one shown in D1 (see the abstract of D3; fig.1).

5.)   The difference between the subject-matter specified in independent claims 1, 2, 8, and 13 and the disclosure of D1, which is considered to represent the closest prior art, would appear to be that D1 shows a

   i)   bar code reader for reading data, while the independent claims specify a
   ii)   reader, which is interpreted in the light of the description as a card reader for reading data (as shown for example in D2, fig.3B).

The objective problem may therefore be regarded as how to provide an alternative to input data.

The feature ii) is merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill, in order to solve the problem posed. Hence, the

independent claims are not considered to provide a contribution to the prior art which would involve an inventive step in the meaning of Article 33 (3) PCT.

6.)   The dependent claims 3-7, 9-12, 14-18 do not appear to contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect inventive step.

Appendix to Section VII

7.)   The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Appendix to Section VIII

8.)   Although claims 1, 2, 8, and 13 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness. Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

Hence, claims 1, 2, 8, and 13 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

9.)   The above objection could have been overcome by filing an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of **a single** independent claim in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional (Rule 6.4 PCT).

Robert Kaplan
4 Creswick Walk
London
United Kingdom
NW11 6AN

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington
Washington DC
USA
20231

26 November 2000

ATTENTION : ENTRY TO NATIONAL STAGE

Dear Sirs,

PCT PATENT APPLICATION No. PCT/ GB99/01766

Due to my current circumstances that leave me unable to afford a patent agent to proceed for me, I am proceeding on my own behalf. I have read everything I can on filing this National Phase request, however I apologise if processing this application is more difficult for you than usual and also if I have neglected to include anything.

As I cannot fully understand the amended claims filed on my behalf by the patent agent on 13/6/200 in response to the objections outlined in the written opinion of the EPO on16/3/2000, I therefore would like to submit a new set of claims that I feel represent my invention more as it was originally conceived, albeit, less comprehensive than the claims presently on file. I can only hope I am not causing myself unnecessary problems in re writing the claims so that they are more easily understood and specific.

Please find a new set of claims with my Entry into the USA National Phase, the enclosed replacement amended claims pages 23 to 32 are to replace pages 23 to 30 presently on file. New claims 1 to 29 replace all claims presently on file.

New claim 1 is directed towards a system for transferring or requesting data via the Internet using magnetically encoded swipe cards and a swipe card reader. Basis for new claim 1 may be found at, for example page11 line 24 to 27, page 12 line 1 to 17 and page 16 line 7 to 10. of the description as filed.

I would now like to address the observations as mentioned in the written opinion dated 7/7/2000 and headed; as

Appendix to Section V. of the EPO Preliminary Examination

which makes reference to the following documents:

Item 1.   D1 = WO9820411 A (Neomedia Technologies Inc) 14/5/1998
Item 2.   D2 = US 5 281 799 A (McIntire Harley J Et AL) 25/1/1994

Item 3.   D3 = WO 98 06055 A (Rapaport Jeffrey Alan; Rapaport Seymour Alvin (US)) 12/2/1998

Response;

Item 1. With regards to D1, D1 relates to an intelligent printed document using bar codes that is scanned by a bar code scanner, the data as scanned directly into a computer program that has to be open or activated prior to scanning any data. The scanner in this example being nothing more than an input device for downloading data to a computer as scanned.

Whereas the inventive step in the invention as submitted overcomes the limitations as described by allowing a swipe card reader to determine how data read from a swipe card, that may require more than one initiation sequence, is to be used, the swipe card reader then co-ordinates the correct response from an attached computer as required to utilise the swipe card data as swiped.

Item 2. With regards to D2, D2 relates to the encoding of information on a document said information being a bar code, a xerographic printing or a magnetic stripe. My invention relates to the interpretation of said encoded data off a swipe card.

Item 3. With regards to D3. D3 relates to the scanning of bar codes to receive a URL, said URL is the directly placed into a web browser program to access a web site. The scanned bar code itself contains instructions that are directly input to a browser program to access a URL or a specific file in a computer.

In the invention as submitted the swipe card reader interprets the received data from the swipe card and determines how the received data is to be used not only to address a server but may also be used to send additional data to a server if requested, the actions being dependant on the specific requirements of the swipe card used.

This clarification being the reason I wish to submit the Amended Claims with this application.

Thank you for your consideration and patience.

Yours respectfully

Robert Kaplan

        PS   If you need to contact me email: rk@ka.u-net.com or rk@x-ex.com phone 44 208 209 0210

        PPS please let me know by email when you receive this submission, thank you.

ENCL:

        Fee letter and forms

2

The PTO did not receive the following
listed item(s)

NO POST CARD

AMENDED CLAIMS   26/11/2000

<u>INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION No. PCT/GB99/01766</u>

1.   A system for coordinating the request for or transfer of data over the Internet utilising data read from a swipe card to determine and initiate the process, comprising:

    a plurality of Internet addressing apparatus, said apparatus each comprising:

        a computer, having a modem a monitor and a web browser stored therein; and

        attached to said computer a swipe card reader for swiping swipe cards through said swipe card reader containing a magnetic stripe read head for reading data as recorded on a swipe card;

        a plurality of remote servers having stored therein a plurality of individual web sites, server address locations or URL's;

and

        a plurality of swipe cards which are separate from said computers, said swipe card readers and said web sites, servers or URL's, said swipe cards having associated therewith or attached thereto a magnetic stripe which has recorded thereon predetermined email address or web site address, URL or server location and may also include additional related data;

    wherein said data initiation and transfer process, further comprises:

        A swipe card reader that contains within itself the means to determine and coordinate the data initiation and transfer sequence for Internet and related data when said data is recorded on a swipe card and read by said swipe card reader, when said swipe card reader reads data from said swipe card it causes said swipe card reader to activate a data initiation sequence according to the particular data on said swipe card by first selecting then activating a device driver from within said computer to enable said swipe card reader to coordinate the actions necessary for any software program that may be required to aid in the transfer and utilisation of said data as read from said swipe card. Said data may be an email address or to access a web site or a URL or other Internet or account server related data for use as recorded on said swipe card and read by said swipe card reader including the transferring of any additional data on request from said web site or account server location.

    and further comprises:

        a swipe card that may have recorded thereon any combination of more than one data initiation sequence such as a swipe card that has recorded thereon web site address data and also account data;

    and further comprises

        a swipe card that has recorded thereon an email address and related data.

Patent Application # PCT/GB99/01766   23

2.   A system according to claim 1, wherein said swipe card has recorded thereon further data in a form readable by said swipe card reader, further comprising the steps of reading said further data from said swipe card; coordinating said data transfer prior to transferring said further data to a computer; or coordinating the transfer of said further data to a server location directly.

3.   A system according to claim 2 wherein a web site or server is arranged to transmit additional data to said computer following the receipt of said further data from said swipe card reader.

4.   A system according to claim 3 wherein an account server is arranged to receive and also store individual account data, wherein said account server is also arranged to update said account data according to online transactions of a swipe card relating to said individual account data.

5.   A swipe card having recorded thereon data such as web site address data or individual account data or restricted access data or identification data or email address data and any other data in a form readable by said swipe card reader said swipe card reader determining how best to process said swipe card data after reading said data from said swipe card then initiating the correct action to best utilise said data as recorded on said swipe card in accordance with any of claims 1 to 4.

6.   A system for obtaining and transferring data to and from a predetermined web site or account server via the internet or offline, comprising:

a plurality of Internet addressing apparatus, said apparatus each comprising:

a computer, a modem, a monitor and having a web browser stored therein;
a swipe card reader for swiping a swipe card through containing a magnetic stripe read head for reading data as recorded on said swipe card;
a plurality of servers having stored therein a plurality of individual account data said account servers all having distinct addresses; and

a plurality of swipe cards which are separate from said computers and said swipe card readers, a swipe card comprising a magnetic stripe which has recorded thereon individual account data in a form readable by said swipe card reader, said individual account data defining the individual account number at a predetermined web site or server location;

Wherein each of said addressing apparatus further comprises:

means for causing said swipe card reader to read said data from a swipe card and to place the data in its buffer whilst the microprocessor in the swipe card reader determines the initiation sequence of the data received and how it is to be processed in coordination with said attached computer:

and a

means for activating said web browser to address said web site server utilising data transferred thereto from said swipe card reader and to receive information transferred to said computer from said web site or server in response to said addressing of said web site or server and further to transfer individual account number and any further data requested to said web site or account server to enable an account transaction to take place according to the individual account details on said swipe card.

and a further

means for causing a connection to be made either to an online server or a direct phone connection to an offline server by use of a swipe card that has both a online server address as well as a direct connection telephone number to an offline server encoded onto said swipe card which may first dial an Internet connection then go to the online server or go to a web site first then dial a direct connection to an offline server while online.

said swipe card reader determining the correct action to initiate to access said server before any data is transferred from said swipe card reader in response to a swipe card being swiped.

7. A system according to claims 1 and 6, in which a swipe card reader by use of an internal ROM and CPU is adapted to store as well as determine the correct action to take utilising of a device driver and what programs in an attached computer or computing device are to be activated in order to best utilise data from a swipe card that may relate to any of the following;

web site address;
email address;
pre-paid swipe card;
identification data
account data;
telephone number or
restricted web site access data.

8. A system and process according to claims 7, in which said swipe card reader is adapted to read data in magnetic form, said data being recorded on a document or swipe card in magnetic form.

9. A magnetic read head according to claims 1 and 6, in which said magnetic read head reads data in magnetic form, said data being recorded on a magnetic stripe on a document or swipe card in magnetic form.

10. A swipe card reader for connection to a computer, for reading data from a swipe card in accordance with claims 1 and 6,

said swipe card reader comprising:

means for causing a computer to initiate any specific tasks required on the Internet or an intranet by utilising data placed on a swipe card enabling said swipe card reader to identify the data read from said swipe card and determine the correct action or files to initiate; Said swipe card is separate from said computer and said swipe card reader.

11. A system using a swipe card and a swipe card reader to access the Internet to obtain and also transfer information to a server, comprising:

providing a computer;
providing a swipe card reader for swiping a swipe card through said swipe card reader containing a magnetic stripe read head for reading address data recorded on a swipe card;
providing a swipe card which is separate from said computer and said swipe card reader;
a portion of said swipe card,
comprising a swipe card which has recorded thereon data in a form readable by said swipe card reader, said data defining the action to be taken by said swipe card reader;
presenting said portion of said swipe card to said swipe card reader causing said swipe card reader to read said data from said swipe card; determining the action required to utilise said data or further data when recorded on said swipe card; transferring said data to said computer after initiating the correct response to said data on said swipe card and causing said computer to utilise said data. When said data represents a predetermined web site address, email address or further data to transfer said data from said swipe card reader to form a connection to said web site or server location, email program or retain said further data until requested ;

and

transferring said further data from said swipe card reader to said web site or server via the Internet creating a communications link to said web site or server, wherein said web site or server requests further identification data, said transfer of said information to and from said web site or server is performed via said communications link on said Internet.

and further comprises

A swipe card with web site address data recorded thereon; and

means for causing said swipe card reader to determine that web site address data relates to a predetermined web site on the Internet when a web site address is encoded on said swipe card, said swipe card reader initiates going online if not online and opening a web browser program on said attached computer to transfers said web site address data into the address box of said web browser causing said web browser to address said web site to enable the viewing of said web site on said computer.

and further comprises:

a swipe card with account data and server data recorded thereon; and

means for causing said swipe card reader to determine that individual account data relates to a specific account at a web site or server location when said swipe card is swiped through said swipe card reader, said swipe card reader initiates a connection to said account location to enable the transfer of said account data from said swipe card reader to said account location that may also request additional identification to allow access.

and further comprises:

a swipe card with phone number data and server address data recorded thereon; and

means for causing said swipe card reader to determine that telephone number data and server address data on said swipe card may relate to a direct telephone line or web connection to a server location to enable the transfer of data to and from said server location which may entail activating a dialer program placing said phone number in said dialer program and causing said dialer program to dial said telephone number using a modem connected to a phone line in said computer or activating a browser program to go online to said server;

and further comprises:

a swipe card with web site address and further data recorded thereon; and

means for causing said swipe card reader to determine that restricted web site access data on said swipe card relates to opening a web site on the Internet then waiting for a request from said web site for additional data stored in said swipe card reader to enable access to said web site after said additional data has been received by said web site.

and further comprises:

a swipe card with email address and related data recorded thereon; and

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means for causing said swipe card reader to determine that email address data for an email client location on a swipe card relates to an email address and to open an email program to enable the transfer of said email address to said email program in said computer.

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12. A swipe card reader in accordance with claims 1, 6 and 11, said swipe card reader further comprising:
means

for coordinating the transfer of data using a device driver program in

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the attached computer said device driver program may be downloaded from the internet or sent on a disc containing said device driver which relates to the initiation data as recorded on a swipe card and as read by said swipe card reader from a said swipe card that is separate from said computer and said reader.

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13. A swipe card reader in accordance with claims 1, 6, and 11 said swipe card reader further comprising:

means within its ROM and CPU to determine the transfer and initiation sequence from data as recorded on a swipe card including

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any additional data that may relate to a predetermined address as recorded on said swipe card and if this additional data should be held in the swipe card readers CPU or buffer untill requested by an attached computer or said predetermined web site or server address.

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14. Apparatus for use in a process for obtaining information from a predetermined web site or server location via the Internet or intranet comprising:

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a computer or computing device having a browser stored therein;

a swipe card magnetic read head for reading data on a swipe card and
means for determining the different initiation sequence requirements

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of data as recorded on any two different swipe cards and the correct action to initiate in response to the different data sequences as recorded on each said individual swipe card that may also include additional identification or other data; and

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means for causing said read head that may also be part of or built into the actual computing device to read web site address data from a swipe card and to initiate the transfer of said address data to said

web browser after activating said browser;
and

means for causing said browser to address said web site or file utilising the address data transferred thereto and to receive information transferred to said computing device from said web site or server in response to said addressing of said web site or server location.
and

means for identifying and determining which program to access in said computer or computing device to coordinate the transfer of data as read from a swipe card and how best to utilise said received data and whether to activate any additional programs or files in the computer or computing device for use by said received data.

15. Apparatus for use in a process for sending email via the Internet in accordance with claim 14, comprising:

a computer or computing device having an email program stored therein;
a swipe card reader for reading data from a swipe card and determine the correct action to take in response to the data on the said swipe card;
means for causing said swipe card reader to read said email address data from a swipe card and to transfer said address data to said email program; and

means for causing said email program utilising the email address data transferred thereto from said swipe card reader, to send email.

16. Apparatus for use in a process for sending further data to a web site on the Internet in accordance with claim 14 comprising:

a computer or computing device having a browser program stored therein;
a swipe card reader for reading data from a swipe card;
determining the correct action to take in response to the data on the said swipe card;
means for causing said swipe card reader to read said further data from a swipe card and to transfer said further data to said web site when requested;
and
means for causing said further data to be transferred to said web site to verify the identity of the user when accessing an account or using or viewing certain restricted access sites.

17.	Apparatus for use in a process for accessing web sites via the Internet in accordance with claim 14 comprising:

a computer or computing device having a browser program stored therein;
a swipe card reader for reading data from a swipe card;
determining the correct action to take in response to said data on said swipe card;
means for causing said swipe card reader to read said web site address data from a swipe card and to transfer said address data to said browser program; and
means for causing said web browser to address said web site utilising the identification data transferred thereto from said swipe card reader in response to a request for additional identification data from said web site and then to receive restricted information transferred to said computing device from said web site in response to said subsequent data being transferred to said web site.

18.	A system in accordance with any of the relevant prior claims 1 to 17, wherein said swipe card or document comprises a substrate of paper, card, or plastic with a magnetic stripe placed thereon for recording data thereon.

19.	A system in accordance with any of the relevant prior claims 1 to 17, wherein said swipe card has said data recorded thereon in magnetic form.

20.	A system in accordance with any of the relevant prior claims 1 to 17, wherein said swipe card may be detachably attached to a mass medium print vehicle who's content is relative to the information found at the web site or email address as recorded on said swipe card, for distribution. Said attachment means may be made by use of a glue that will not damage a swipe card when it is removed from said mass medium distribution vehicle. Said distribution may also be by perforation means to enable detaching an individual card from the host, friction or a swipe card may be distributed on its own.

21.	A system in accordance with any of the relevant prior claims 1 to 17, for determining the type of data as recorded on a swipe card as read by said swipe card reader; and a means of parsing this data received by use of a microprocessor placed within said swipe card reader to instruct an attached computer to perform a task in response to the data as recorded on said swipe card, correctly. Including opening a web browser or mail program to enable creating a link to the Internet. Or determining whether to make a direct telephone connection link to a remote server or whether

to go online to the remote server using the Internet. Or holding data back until a request for it is made before sending it on. Or whether to open an email program to enable accepting an email address.

22. A system or process in accordance with any of the relevant prior claims 1 to 17, for determining the type of data as recorded on a swipe card as read by a swipe card reader; and a means of parsing this data received by use of a program placed within a computing device to enable performing the task in response to the data as recorded on said swipe card and read by a magnetic read head and received by said computing device, correctly. Including opening a web browser or mail program to enable creating a link to the Internet. Or determining whether to make a direct telephone connection link to a remote server or whether to go online to the remote server using the Internet or whether to open an email program to accept an email address.

23. A system or process for obtaining information from a predetermined web site via the internet, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying description and drawings and using radio transmission to create a link between a swipe card reader, computer and server.

24. A system using a swipe card for placing data of a predetermined email address for sending email via the internet, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying description and drawings.

25. A system using a business card with a magnetic stripe thereon for recording data of a predetermined web site or email address for sending email via the internet, including placing any further relevant data on said swipe business card substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying description and drawings.

26. A system for accessing a predetermined prepaid individual account at a web site account server via the internet using a magnetic swipe card with the prepaid account number recorded on it and with the amount of credit on the swipe card being adjusted as purchases are made against the outstanding balance on the prepaid swipe card when using the Internet .

27. A Swipe card for accessing a predetermined address via the internet and using said swipe card with a web site address data recorded on it, or account data recorded on it or secure access data recorded on it or remote server telephone number data recorded on it or identification data recorded on it or a web site server address data or email address data

recorded on it substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying description and drawings using a computer or computing device containing a modem and a connection to the Internet.

28. Apparatus used for accessing a predetermined web site or server location address via the internet or intranet using a swipe card reader to enable reading said address from a swipe card with the data recorded on it, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying description and drawings using a computer or computing device with a modem and where the magnetic read head may be part of the computing device or by using any other form suitable for use in the implementation of said process.

29. A system for coordinating the transfer of data as read from a swipe card by a magnetic read head using a device driver program that may be stored in a computer or in a computing device after downloading said device driver program from a dedicated web site on the Internet or by use of a disc and disc drive for loading said program into said computer or computing device. According to all relevant claims 1 to 28.

APPLICATION No. PCT/GB99/01766

ATTACHMENT 1B

REFERENCE TO CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

The following references are intended to identify the claims and show the more relevant pages and line numbers that the claim is based around according to this patent application, as independent claims contain more details they encompass more elements of the description than the dependant ones.

As I am not familiar with the application process if I have not referenced the claims as required please notify me so that I may correct them accordingly.

CLAIM 1. (independent claim)

    Entire description and drawings particularly Page 4 line 26 to page 5 line 17. Page7 line 4 to line 10. Page 8 line 3 to 9. Page11 line 24 to 27. Page 12 line 1 to 17 and Page 16 line 7 to 10. Page 19 line 15 to line 16. Page 20 line 19 to line 26.

CLAIM 2. (dependant claim)

    Pages 14 lines 20 to Pages 15 line 6. Page 16 line 7 to 10 and Page 17 line 1 to 5.

CLAIM 3. (dependant claim)

    Page 16 lines 21 to Page 17 lines 5

CLAIM 4. (dependant claim)

    Page 17 lines 8 to 15

CLAIM 5. (dependant claim)

    Page 14 line 20 to 25. Page 20 line 9 to 13 and Page 20 line 19 to 26

CLAIM 6. (independent claim)

    Entire description and drawings particularly Page 16 line 21 to 17 line 15. Page 20 19 to 26 and Page 14 line 20 to page 15 line 6.

 CLAIM 7. (dependant claim)

    Page 11 line 17 to page 12 line 17 and same as claim 5

CLAIM 8. (dependant claim)

Page 6 line 21 to page 7 line 3

CLAIM 9. (dependant claim)

Page 6 line 21 to page 7 line 3

CLAIM 10. (dependant claim)

Page 16 line 7 to 10

CLAIM 11. (independent claim)

Has reference to most of the description and drawings

CLAIM 12. (dependant claim)

Page 7 line 4 to 12

CLAIM 13. (dependant claim)

Page 7 line 13 to page 9 line 5 and Page 11 line 24 to page 12 line 17

CLAIM 14. (independent claim)

Description and drawings with particular reference to Page 21 line 23 to page 22 line 5.

CLAIM 15. (dependant claim)

Page 8 line 15 to page 9 line 5

CLAIM 16. (dependant claim)

Page 20 line 19 to 26

CLAIM 17. (dependant claim)

Page 16 line 21 to page 17 line 5

CLAIM 18. (dependant claim)

Page 6 line 3 to 5

CLAIM 19. (dependant claim)

Page 6 line 21 to 25

CLAIM 20. (dependant claim)

Page 17 line 16 to page 19 lie 20

CLAIM 21. (dependant claim)

Page 12 line 10 to 17

CLAIM 22. (dependant claim)

Page 7 line 4 to 27

CLAIM 23. (dependant claim)

Page 22 line 6 to 12

CLAIM 24. (dependant claim)

See application

CLAIM 25. (dependant claim)

Page 20 line 9 to 13

CLAIM 26. (dependant claim)

Page 17 line 8 to line 15

CLAIM 27. (dependant claim)

Page 21 line 23 to page 22 line 5

CLAIM 28. (dependant claim)

Page 21 line 23 to page 22 line20

CLAIM 29. (dependant claim)

Page 7 line 4 to 12.

ATENT COOPERATION TREA

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5271399	**FOR FURTHER ACTION**	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/01766	International filing date *(day/month/year)* 03/06/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date *(day/month/year)* 03/06/1998	

Applicant KAPLAN, Robert

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of _____3_____ sheets.

[X] It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**

   a. With regard to the **language,** the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

   [ ] the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

   b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

   [ ] contained in the international application in written form.

   [ ] filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

   [ ] furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readble form.

   [ ] the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

   [ ] the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. [ ] **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. [ ] **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title,**

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract,**

   [X] the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

   [ ] the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.   1_____

   [X] as suggested by the applicant.   [ ] None of the figures.

   [ ] because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

   [ ] because this figure better characterizes the invention.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (first sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6   G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6   G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 98 20411 A (NEOMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES INC) 14 May 1998 (1998-05-14) page 1, line 11 -page 8, line 20; claims; figures 1,6 ---	1-49
Y	US 5 281 799 A (MCINTIRE HARLEY J ET AL) 25 January 1994 (1994-01-25) abstract; figure 3B ---	1-49
X	WO 98 06055 A (RAPAPORT JEFFREY ALAN ;RAPAPORT SEYMOUR ALVIN (US)) 12 February 1998 (1998-02-12) page 3, line 1 -page 4, line 20 --- -/--	1,2,6,7, 11,17, 19, 28-30, 33,46-49

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.   [X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
4 October 1999	12/10/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Fournier, C

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category°	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	"DISTRIBUTING UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATORS AS BAR CODE IMAGES" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 39, no. 1, 1 January 1996 (1996-01-01), page 167 XP000556360 ISSN: 0018-8689 the whole document -----	1-49

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
WO 9820411	A	14-05-1998	NONE		
US 5281799	A	25-01-1994	US	5410136 A	25-04-1995
			CA	2095912 A,C	23-12-1993
			EP	0580280 A	26-01-1994
			JP	7013463 A	17-01-1995
			MX	9302995 A	31-05-1994
			US	5439255 A	08-08-1995
WO 9806055	A	12-02-1998	NONE		

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	"DISTRIBUTING UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATORS AS BAR CODE IMAGES" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 39, no. 1, 1 January 1996 (1996-01-01), page 167 XP000556360 ISSN: 0018-8689 the whole document -----	1-49

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)